



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Praise and Recognition

Tuesday, 14 January 2014

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CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

152nd General Assembly

- **TUESDAY @ 7:30 AM** in 123 CAP
- **TUESDAY @ 12 NOON** in 328 CLOB

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30am in 123 CAP and again at 12 Noon in 328 CLOB. The weekly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. The study for the 2014 General Assembly is the book of First Corinthians.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God as an aspect of that ministry.

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study is

Tuesday, 14 January 2014

First Corinthians 1 – “Praise and Recognition”

“Houston, we’ve had a problem” is one of the famous quotations of modern times. John Swigert Jr. first contacted the Houston base during the Apollo 13 moon flight, and then James Lovell used the phrase to report a major technical fault in the electrical system of the oxygen tanks. “Houston, we have a problem” was the tagline for the 1995 film, *Apollo 13*.

Since the film release, there has been a renewed use of the line to denote problems in any kind of non-spaceflight contexts. Many practical problems are addressed in the letters to Corinth, and the responses therein are intensely relevant and thus beneficial in application to the Capitol community. The introduction to the epistle could have easily read, “Corinth, we have a problem.”

EXPRESSING THANKS

First Corinthians is one of the primary letters of Scripture that addresses the doctrine of salvation (soteriology). The other soteriological epistles include Galatians, Romans, and Second Corinthians. Other doctrines and subjects are addressed in these letters; however, the dominant emphasis is upon the doctrine of salvation. First Corinthians elaborates upon soteriological themes from various aspects.

(1 Cor 1:1-9) First Corinthians is inspired and inerrant. The Holy Bible is literally “God-breathed” (Gk. *theopneustos*), which means that it is the result of a specifically divine operation. As “God-breathed,” the Word of God is similar to the creation of humanity, when God breathed the breath of life into the first man (Gen 2:7); it is also similar to creation itself, which God spoke into existence (Ps 33:6).

God chose to reveal specific sets of information to certain individuals who He selected, and they would then produce the written record that possessed God’s approval. God used the personalities of those who recorded what He desired, and those individuals were under the moving influence of the Holy Spirit by whom they were sustained in their writing (cf. 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21). When the Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, he did so as one inspired by God. Paul was commissioned “by the will of God” (1 Cor 1:1), thus his words are to be received as God’s own commands (Matt 10:40; 1 Cor 14:37).

First Corinthians was intended for “the church of God which is at Corinth” (1 Cor 1:2). When one considers the divisions among this congregation (1:10-17), the words of address are significant since they indicated that the body of believers is God’s own possession (not of Apollos, Cephas, or even the Apostle Paul). Every community of believers is not merely an assembly of individuals. Every believer belongs to God, and thus the Lord’s desires are to direct his/her life. Grace and peace are resultant characteristics of the believer’s life (1:3).

... IT IS WISE TO RECOGNIZE THAT CORRECTION IS OFTEN EASIER RECEIVED WHEN AUTHENTIC PRAISE IS FIRST GIVEN.

Prior to addressing specific problems, the Apostle Paul affirmed his genuinely positive feelings and hopes (1:4-9). The thanksgiving was not a merely courteous attempt “to win friends and influence people,” although it is wise to recognize that correction is often easier received when authentic praise is first given. Consequently, verses 4-9 affirm thankfulness to God for the recipients and the reasons why.

EXPRESSING UNITY

(1 Cor 1:10-17) The prominent theme of 1 Corinthians 1:1—4:21 is the problem of divisions. The quarrels involved secondary matters and selfish rivalry between adherents of various leaders. The desire to be correct (with regard to some particular issue) resulted in polarization and even individual cliques among various groups. God’s people are called to be “peacemakers” (Matt 5:9), and should thus seek to exhibit the unity that is true of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12).

First Corinthians 12:12 – For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday (14 January) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 123 CAP

Tuesday (14 January) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 328 CLOB

lunch provided from sponsorship by State Representative Bruce Williamson



Enhancing Trust

Capitol Commission Georgia

Praise and Recognition

... THOSE WHO ARE "SPIRITUAL" RECEIVE ... [THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD] BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES THEM — THROUGH THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD (THE BIBLE) — HOW TO HAVE "THE MIND OF CHRIST."

Although it may seem difficult to imagine, God's people can truly find themselves seeking to accomplish things in the Lord's name that are entirely contrary to his revealed purpose and will. Many of the Corinthian believers had succumbed to divisions that frustrated the calling of God by aligning themselves against one another, and by employing worldly wisdom and persuasive power to give credence to their divisive habits. The power and wisdom of God is not dependent upon worldly wisdom (1 Cor 2:14-16); rather, those who are "spiritual" receive it because the Holy Spirit teaches them — through the revealed Word of God (the Bible) — how to have "the mind of Christ."

EXPRESSING WISDOM

(1 Cor 1:18-25) The "wisdom of the world" is not all wrong; however, such wisdom often achieves faulty conclusions regarding truth (especially ultimate truth). What is mistaken regarding the world's wisdom is that it is based upon human sinfulness, which means such wisdom tends to function contrary to God at crucial moments and times (with willful rebellion), and intellectual pride is the corollary.

Within such a faulty condition, the wisdom of the world is blind to the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:18-25), fails "to know God" (1:20-21), and is opposed to the gospel message (2:1-5). Furthermore, few who are called by God are intellectuals anyway (1:26-31) because God has chosen them primarily to proclaim God's truth, as opposed to philosophizing.

The remedy for the harmful effects of worldly wisdom is to receive God's wisdom with humility through the opportunity of the indwelling Holy Spirit (2:6-16), which is another way of stating that one should receive the revealed truth of the Bible, especially since the Holy Spirit ultimately gave the revealed truth of God in this form.

EXPRESSING HUMILITY

(1 Cor 1:26-31) All believers need regularly to consider their calling. When one first believed the gospel message, most had no basis from which to assert superiority toward someone else or to boast regarding one's status, power, or wisdom (cf. 1 Cor 1:10-12; 26-28; 4:7; Eph 2:8-10). God's calling results in simple belief of the gospel message. Unfortunately, even Christians can forget their spiritual conversion and appeal to worldly wisdom as a means for exalting self and causing divisions.

The powerful, sophisticated, and wise "of the world" may feel tempted to boast that they become Christians because they deserve to become the people of God. Christ is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24). He is wisdom unto those who believe in

the sense that Christ is the believer's redemption, righteousness, and sanctification (1:26-31). Consequently, the believers' boast should be in the Lord, knowing they do not deserve God's grace and mercy.

To dispel any pride within the believer, Scripture reminds us why we believed the gospel. The belief is not the consequence of one's power or wisdom, "but by His doing you are in Christ Jesus" (1:30). God himself is the definitive power for the salvation of those who believe (Eph 2:8-9).

Ephesians 2:8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

No boasting belongs to those who have come to faith in Christ Jesus. All praise and recognition for the believer's salvation belongs to God.

Salvation is "in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor 1:30). The prepositional phrase – "in Christ Jesus" – describes the saving relationship that all believers possess. Believers are joined to Christ through identification (baptism), raised from spiritual death to walk in newness of life, and are members of his body (Rom 6:4; 1 Cor 12:12-13). Those who believe share in Christ's resurrection life now and will experience ultimate salvation with the resurrection of the body (Rom 6:3-8). Vital union with Christ should resolve and prohibit divisions among believers.

ALL PRAISE AND RECOGNITION FOR THE BELIEVER'S SALVATION BELONGS TO GOD.

The believer's union with Christ means that He has become "wisdom from God" (1 Cor 1:30). Union with Christ should make all believers value Christ Jesus as the greatest wisdom of all, and that wisdom is found in the revealed Word of God, the Bible.

With all the decisions that are expected and needed from the Capitol community, surely, it is crucial to prioritize time to hear and heed the wisdom of God. The wonderful joy of doing so will be in relying upon God's power. Consequently, boasting will be done to the glory of God and one will know that decisions are made with an eternal perspective.

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact us by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state directors are pastors/missionaries who teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community. State directors also meet personally with many government leaders to proclaim God's grace in salvation, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel. The mission of Capitol Commission is to reach Capitol communities for Christ—one person at a time, to disciple them, and to prepare them for a lifetime of ministry, wherever God chooses to place them.

Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state-funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it. Please join us in this ministry!

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:
State Representative – Bruce Williamson
Georgia House District 115

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**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:
TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY @ 7:30AM in 123 CAP
and again @ 12 NOON in 328 CLOB**